1 Ford Greene California State Bar No. 107601 JUN 0 3 1994 2 HUB LAW OFFICES 711 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard HOWARD HANSON 3 San Anselmo, California 94960-1949 MARIN COUNTY CLERK Telephone: (415) 258-0360 Telecopier: (415) 456-5318 BY: E. Keswick, Deputy 4 Attorney for Defendant RECEIVED 5 GERALD ARMSTRONG 6 JUN 03 1994 7 **HUB LAW OFFICES** 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 FOR THE COUNTY OF MARIN 10 11 CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL,) No. 157 680 a California not-for-profit religious corporation, 12 13 Plaintiff, GERALD ARMSTRONG'S OPPOSITION TO DEMURRER 14 VS. TO SECOND AMENDED CROSS-COMPLAINT 15 GERALD ARMSTRONG; MICHAEL WALTON; THE GERALD ARMSTRONG CORPORATION, 16 a California for-profit corporation; DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, 17 Date: June 10, 1994 Defendants. Time: 9:00 a.m. 18 Dept: One Trial Date: 9/29/94 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

On March 25, 1994, the Court sustained Scientology's demurrer to Armstrong's first amended cross-complaint. As to the cause of action for abuse of process, the Court ordered:

As to the second cause of action for abuse of process, cross-complainant fails to allege any "wilful act in the use of process not proper in the regular conduct of the proceeding." (see Oren Royal Oaks Venture v. Greenberg, Berhard, Weiss, Karma, Inc. (1986) 42 Cal.3d 1157, 1168) All of the allegations regarding plaintiff's pursuit of this litigation go to the first element of the cause of action, "ulterior purpose." (Id.) Cross-complainant shall have 20 days' leave to amend to state a cause of action if he can.

(Tentative Ruling, 3/25/94)

Thereafter Armstrong filed his second amended cross-complaint ("SAC") which is the subject of the instant proceeding. Rather than address Scientology's aspersions thrown at the allegations of Armstrong's second amended cross-complaint, and based on the clear implication from the Court's order that Armstrong has sufficiently pleaded the element of "ulterior purpose," 1/2 he will go directly to the issue of whether or not he has pleaded any "wilful act in the use of process not proper in the regular conduct of the proceeding."

II. ARMSTRONG'S SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT ALLEGES THE WILFUL ACTS THAT THE COURT'S MARCH 25, 1994 ORDER SAID WERE REQUIRED

Armstrong has sufficiently pleaded the ulterior purpose element of an abuse of process. He says it is Scientology's use of the legal system as an engine of retributive and retaliatory destruction intended to eliminate any impediment to its

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¹ It is curious that only now Scientology seeks in its companion motion, for the first time to strike said allegations in this attack on the cross-complaint.

dissemination of propagandistic falsehoods and to suppress evidence and obstruct justice. (SAC $\P\P$ 10-46)

Armstrong's second amended cross-complaint alleges that his former lawyer, Michael Flynn, represented former organization executives Laurel Sullivan ("Sullivan"), William Franks ("Franks"), Howard Schomer ("Schomer"), Edward Walters ("Walters") and Martin Samuels ("Samuels"), all of whom were Scientology contemporaries of Armstrong. (SAC, ¶ 21) While so represented by Flynn, who had his own claims against Scientology (SAC ¶ 22), Sullivan, Franks, Schomer, Walters, and Samuels signed gag agreements identical to that signed by Armstrong under circumstances in which Flynn was effectively acting as the agent of Scientology. Moreover Flynn agreed never to litigate against Scientology again or to assist his client, defendant Armstrong.

Having no money to fiance depositions and travel, Armstrong is unable to effectively defend himself in the instant litigation and that in Los Angeles wherein Scientology is seeking to enforce the settlement contract, because his witnesses have all signed

Scientology admits the existence of such contracts when it states "Armstrong's request that the Church abandon the similar benefit which it bargained for and received in the form of settlement agreements with third parties is ludicrous."

(Memorandum in Support of Demurrer at 8:13-15) Moreover, Scientology argument that the only evidence that is relevant is limited to "the Church's claim that he fraudulently transferred his property to his co-defendants" (Id. at 8:20-21) disregards both the new matter asserted in the affirmative defenses in Armstrong's answer and the fact that Armstrong cannot finance the taking of depositions of third-party witnesses.

identical contracts. 3/ Armstrong has requested Scientology to release such persons from their contracts so that he could have witnesses who would support his defense both in the Los Angeles Action and here. Scientology has refused. (SAC ¶¶ 60-67)

Such has the effect of aggregating control of both sides of the litigation to Scientology because it has eliminated the witnesses whose testimony would damages its claims from being available to Armstrong. Even if Armstrong took the depositions of such witnesses, if they were not specifically released, they would still be subject to the type of intimidation alleged by Armstrong in Paragraphs 42-43 of his second amended cross-complaint.

Both the effect of such a scheme and another wilful act in furtherance thereof are alleged with reference to Scientology filing a declaration containing falsehoods which pertained to Armstrong and then suing Armstrong for filing his own declaration in rebuttal. (SAC ¶ 69) Armstrong further alleges the abusive nature of such scheme by stating that in the face of Scientology's lies about him he has two choices: to respond or to remain silent. If he responds, he is sued and if he remains silent, Scientology will state that he adoptively admits its falsehoods. (SAC ¶ 70)

in the instant lawsuit responsibility for which it contends Armstrong has sought to evade by transferring what was once his

house to another of his former lawyers, Michael Walton.

It is upon such contract Scientology asserts its "claim"

Scientology does not directly address what Armstrong alleges with respect to what David Miscavige, the leader of Scientology, said about Armstrong and Armstrong's response thereto which Scientology then used as the basis to sue Armstrong again.

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Further, in this action on August 3, 1993, Scientology knowingly and without legal authority filed a lis pendens against the Fawn Drive property as part of its use of the legal system as a tool of destruction in general and to hurt Armstrong in particular by attacking his friends, the Waltons. (SAC ¶ 68)

On October 29, 1993, this Court ordered the expungment of said lis pendens as follows:

The Court, having considered the evidence and the points and authorities in support of and in opposition to the motion, and having heard argument from counsel, finds that the motion should be granted and the notice of pendency of action (lis pendens) recorded August 5, 1993 in the office of the County Recorder of the County of Marin as instrument number 93-062800, and filed in the above-captioned action, should be expunged on the grounds that the within action does not affect title to or possession of specific real property ... and plaintiff has failed to establish the probable validity of the real property claim contained in the complaint by a preponderance of the evidence ... and the notice of pendency of action (lis pendens) was defectively served and filed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT the notice of pendency of action (lis pendens) recorded on August 5th, 1993 in the office of the County Recorder of Marin County as instrument number 93-062800 is hereby ordered expunged.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that plaintiff, Church of Scientology International, shall reimburse SOLINA WALTON in the sum of \$3,500 for attorneys fees and costs and \$14.00 payable before Dec. 1st 1993.

(Order filed herein on 10/29/93)

Scientology has refused, despite request, to obey the Court's October 29, 1993 order. (SAC ¶ 68) Moreover, on November 29, 1993 Scientology has filed yet another lis pendens against the same property. With respect to the November 29, 1993 lis pendens not one of the individuals named on the proof of service thereof received service of said lis pendens. (Declarations of Michael Walton, Gerald Armstrong and Ford Greene)

III. THE DEMURRER MUST BE OVERRULED AS TO ARMSTRONG'S CAUSE OF ACTION FOR ABUSE OF PROCESS

A. The Cause Of Action For Abuse Of Process Is Not Barred By The One Year Statute Of Limitations

As alleged, the conduct which took place prior to November 30, 1992, is to provide context for Armstrong's abuse of process cause of action. Such pre-November 30, 1992, conduct is not alleged in and of itself as an independent tort. 5/ Such pre-November 1993 conduct is alleged, however, as providing the infrastructure for the abuse of process cause of action which is solely aimed at the conduct manifest in the instant lawsuit. The cross-complaint, moreover, alleges that the complaint and other activities herein is part of such scheme and this complaint herein specifically constitute an abuse of process. Since the complaint herein was filed on July 23, 1993, the abuse of process cause of action clearly falls within the one year statute.

well established exception to the usual rule that a statute of limitations starts to run at the time of injury." (The American Law of Torts, § 5:27 at 888-89.) Pursuant to this doctrine, a plaintiff can bring an action against all of a defendant's wrongful conduct, as long as any of it took place during the limitation period. The continuing tort doctrine is applied where "no single incident in a continuous chain of tortious activity can 'fairly or realistically be identified as the cause of significant harm' [making it] proper to regard the cumulative effect of the conduct as actionable." (Page v. United States (D.C.Cir. 1984) 729 F.2d 818, 821-822 quoting Fowkes v. Pennsylvania R.R. (3rd Cir.1959) 264 F.2d 397, 399) The doctrine is intended to prevent a person from acquiring a right to continue to reap benefits from

Were the Court to be convinced by Scientology's

alleged herein, the Court could impose liability on a continuing

contention that the pre-November 1993 conduct was, in fact, alleged as tortious separate from the second cause of action as

previous tortious conduct. (Page, supra, 729 F.2d at 822)

B. The Abuse Of Process Cause Of Action Is Not Barred By The Law of Privilege

1. Since The Object Of Scientology's Fraudulent Conveyance Action Is The Suppression And Censorship Of Open Communication In Judicial Proceedings, The Complaint Does Not Qualify For Protection By The Litigant's Absolute Privilege

The "broad application" given to Civil Code section 47 (b) provided that it satisfy four conditions: the communication was

- (1) made in a judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding;
- (2) by litigants or other participants authorized by law;
- (3) to achieve the objects of the litigation; and
- (4) that have some connection or logical relation to the action.

(Silberg v. Anderson (1990) 50 Cal.3d 205, 211-212, 219)

Before discussing Scientology's failure to satisfy the third element herein, Armstrong will address the manner in which the allegations of the cross-complaint describe behavior that strikes at the very heart of the policy reasons which the California Supreme Court has justified the litigant's privilege to be "absolute."

Certain essential values, defined as "policy" by the California Supreme Court, support the rule that if the four conditions are satisfied, the judicial privilege provides absolute protection. (Id. at p. 215) Whenever the scope of the privilege that the court designates to be "absolute" includes conduct that is harmful, the court's protection can extend to wrongful abuse and exploitation. Therefore, an absolute privilege can "protect the shady practitioner" (Id. at p. 214) such as an attorney who "seeks to deceive a party into relying on an expert by misrepresenting an expert's impartiality." (Id. at p. 213) This

judicially stuck balance <u>values</u> the untrammeled ability to protect "the honest one [from having to be] concerned with subsequent derivative actions" (<u>Id</u>. at p. 214) <u>over</u> the "occasional 'unfair' result." (<u>Id</u>. at p. 213)

Similarly, the privilege promotes and encourages

"'open channels of communication and the presentation of evidence' in judicial proceedings.' [Citation] further purpose of the privilege 'is to assure utmost freedom of communication between citizens and public authorities whose responsibility is to investigate and remedy wrongdoing.' [Citation] Such open communication is 'a fundamental adjunct to the right of access to judicial ... proceedings.' [Citation] Since the 'external threat of liability is destructive of this fundamental right and inconsistent with the effective administration of justice' [Citation], courts have applied the privilege to eliminate the threat of liability for communications made during all kinds of truth seeking proceedings: judicial, quasi-judicial, legislative and other official proceedings."

(Ibid.)

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The "occasional unfair result" is outweighed by keeping "witnesses ... free from the fear of protracted and costly lawsuits which otherwise might cause them either to distort their testimony or refuse to testify altogether" (Id. at p. 214) in order that "the paths that lead to the ascertainment of truth should be left as free and as unobstructed as possible." (Ibid.)

The gravamen of the cross-complaint is that by engineering the subversion of the lawyer who represented the most effective witnesses knowledgeable of Scientology's behavior so that he would get those clients to sign unconscionable settlement contracts subjecting them to harassing lawsuits if they ever testified as witnesses again, Scientology is now able to systematically corrupt "an effective and smoothly operating judicial system" by refusing to release said witnesses to assist Armstrong in his defense in

this action. (Id. at p. 215) 6/

By virtue of threats of lawsuits, and its refusal to allow percipient witnesses to assist Armstrong, who has no money to take their depositions, Scientology has eliminated from this case the "open channels of communication" an entire genus of judicially-credited and truthful witnesses knowledgeable about its behavior and practices. Gerald Armstrong stands up against this, refusing to be used as a tool of corruption. (SAC at ¶ 43)

By way of retaliation and retribution, Scientology is attempting to destroy Armstrong and make an example of him. It is doing so by using the settlement contracts it got Armstrong's

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Page 8.

The Ios Angeles Superior Court has recognized that the settlement contract on which the instant case is based is corrupt. Judge Geernaert stated: "[T]hat is ... one of the most ambiguous, one-sided agreements I have ever read. And I would not have ordered the enforcement of hardly any of the terms had I been asked to, even on the threat that, okay, the case is not settled. I know we like to settle cases. But we don't like to settle cases and, in effect, prostrate the court system into making an order which is not fair or in the public interest." (SAC at ¶ 45)

Before Armstrong made this determination, he endured Scientology's continual attacks Armstrong after December 1986 when the settlement contract was signed. It published a false and unfavorable description of Armstrong in a "dead agent" pack. It filed several affidavits in the case of Church of Scientology of California v. Russell Miller and Penguin Books Limited, Case No. 6140 in the High Court of Justice in London England which falsely accused Armstrong of violations of court orders, and falsely labeled him "an admitted agent provocateur of the U.S. Federal Government." It delivered copies of an edited version of an illegally obtained 1984 videotape of Armstrong to the international media (SAC at ¶ 41).

After Armstrong was subpoenaed to testify in the case of <u>Bent Corydon v. Scientology</u>, Los Angeles Superior Court No. C 694401, Scientology threatened Armstrong with lawsuits on six occasions if he did not obey its orders to not testify regarding Scientology's dark side. (SAC at ¶¶ 42-43) In the fall of 1989, right after receiving a series of threats from organization attorney Lawrence Heller, Armstrong, who had not earlier responded to Scientology's post-settlement attacks, concluded that he was being used to obstruct justice and that he had a right and a duty to not obstruct justice. (SAC at p. 43)

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attorney to make Armstrong and those who, but for the gagcontracts, would be his witnesses sign as a lever to <u>deprive</u> <u>Armstrong of a defense in this action</u>.

The prosecution of the instant lawsuit is necessarily predicated on the settlement contract with Armstrong, while Armstrong's ability to defend himself is eviscerated because of identical contracts with those who otherwise would be his witnesses. Each of the many contracts does not allow the former witnesses "to testify or otherwise participate in any other judicial, administrative or legislative proceeding adverse to Scientology ... [and' shall not make himself amenable to service of any such subpoena in a manner which invalidates the intent of this provision." (Verified Complaint herein, Exhibit A at ¶ 7-H, pp. 10-11) Scientology refuses to release any such witnesses from such contract for the limited purpose of assisting Armstrong mount his defense in the instant litigation. By virtue of contracts purchased through the corruption of counsel who represented the signing parties, and its refusal to release such parties, Scientology's objective is to suppress, censor and exclude relevant evidence from truth-seeking proceedings to which it is a party. And if one of those who signed such a contract rejects its chains by vigorously participating in "freedom of communication during this truth-seeking proceeding," Scientology will sue him until he no longer exercises "freedom of communication" on behalf of Armstrong or anyone else.

Armstrong's second amended cross-complaint says such conduct constitutes an abuse of process. Scientology has sued Armstrong because Armstrong has refused to go along with a contract that

Scientology compromised his former counsel to get Armstrong to sign. The same counsel got Armstrong's witnesses to sign identical contracts. Now Scientology will not release such persons for the limited purpose of assisting Armstrong defend himself herein. Thus, Scientology in exerting control over both sides of the litigation, which constitutes an abuse of process.

In O'Morrow v. Borad (1946) 167 P.2d 483, the California Supreme Court stated "[i]t is contrary to public policy for a person to control both sides of litigation . . [which is] in accordance with the fundamental principle that one may not be both the plaintiff and the defendant in an action." (Id. 167 P.2d at 486) Thus,

The prevailing doctrine in our judicial system that an action not founded upon an actual controversy between the parties to it, and brought for the purpose of securing a determination of a point of law, is collusive and will not be entertained; and the same is true of a suit the sole object of which is to settle rights of third persons who are not parties.

(Golden Gate Bridge and Highway Dist. v. Felt (1931) 214 Cal. 308, 5 P.2d 585, 589-90) Just as "[i]t necessarily follows that the same party cannot be plaintiff and defendant in the same law suit, even though he sue in one capacity and defend in another,"

(Redevelopment Agency, Etc. v. City of Berkeley (1978) 143

Cal.Rptr. 633, 636-37), it also necessarily follows that a party cannot be the only party in ongoing litigation because he has purchased the absence of adverse witnesses upon whom the defense of his adversary depends.

The most insidious object of Scientology's litigation strategy is to suppress and control the very values which make up "the backbone to an effective and smoothly operating judicial

system." (Silberg 50 Cal.3d at p. 215.) This strikes at each of the reasons which underlie the privilege that Scientology is asking this court to use in order to throw out Armstrong's cross-complaint.

2. The Privilege Does Not Apply Because The Cross-Complaint Alleges That The Conduct Constituting An Abuse Of Process Is Part Of A Scheme To Suppress Evidence And Obstruct Justice In Order To Control Both Sides of Litigation

Civil Code section 47 (b)(2) states that a publication in a judicial proceeding is privileged except if the communication is

"made in furtherance of an act of intentional destruction or alteration of physical evidence undertaken for the purpose of depriving a party to litigation to the use of that evidence, whether or not the content of the communication is the subject of a subsequent publication or broadcast which is privileged pursuant to this section. As used in this paragraph, 'physical evidence' means evidence specified in Section 250 of the Evidence Code or evidence that is property of any type specified in Section 2031 of the Code of Civil Procedure."

In its fourth cause of action in its Verified Complaint For Damages And For Preliminary And Permanent Injunctive Relief For Breach Of Contract filed in Marin County Superior Court, Case No. 152 229 Scientology alleged:

"36. In addition to the paralegal services which Armstrong has provided to Ford Greene on the Aznarans' litigation, Armstrong also provided the Aznarans with a declaration, dated August 26, 1991, and filed in the Aznaran's case. In that declaration Armstrong describes some of his alleged experiences with and concerning plaintiff, and purports to authenticate copies of certain documents. These actions and disclosures are violations of Paragraphs 7(G), 7(H) and 10 of the Agreement, requiring that Armstrong pay to CSI and RTC \$50,000 in liquidated damages."

(Request for Judicial Notice filed March 19, 1994, Exhibit D at p.

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is attached as Exhibit F to the Declaration of Ford Greene
Opposing Motion To Exclude Expert Testimony filed in Aznaran v.
Church of Scientology of California, U.S. District Court, Central
District of California, Case No. CV-88-1786-JMI (Ex). (Request
for Judicial Notice filed March 19, 1994, Exhibit E) Attached to
Armstrong's Declaration are two exhibits. Exhibit 1 is a letter
from L. Ron Hubbard to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Exhibit 2 is one of thousands of Scientology's technical
bulletins. Hubbard brags that he knows how to "brainwash faster
than the Russians (20 secs to total amnesia against three years to
slightly confused loyalty)." Such materials are those which fall
within the scope of Evidence Code section 250 and Code of Civil
Procedure section 2031.

The Declaration to which the language in Armstrong II refers

Since the complaint in the instant case is part of a scheme to retaliate against Armstrong for participation in litigation, and the success thereon is predicated on preventing Armstrong from access to witnesses for his defense that Scientology has had execute gag agreements identical to that signed by Armstrong - all of which are intended to destroy evidence by making it unavailable - said complaint falls in the exception to the litigation privilege.

IV. THERE IS NOT ANOTHER PENDING CAUSE OF ACTION
THAT IS BASED ON THE UNDERLYING COMPLAINT BEING
AN ABUSE OF PROCESS

Since the underlying action in this litigation was filed after the cases that have been filed in Los Angeles, and since the abuse of process cause of action in the second amended cross-complaint are directed at the complaint herein, Scientology's

argument that the demurrer must be sustained because there is another action pending between the same parties on the same cause of action confounds reality. Thus, it should be rejected.

V. SANCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED

A judge may impose monetary sanctions incurred by the other party "as a result of bad-faith actions or tactics, which are frivolous or which are solely intended to cause unnecessary delay." (C.C.P. § 128.5.) "Frivolous means (a) "totally and completely without merit" or (b) "for the sole purpose of harassing an opposing party." (C.C.P. § 128.5 (b)(2).)

A motion is "frivolous" and in "bad faith" where "any reasonable lawyer would agree it is totally devoid of merit"; e.g. lacking in any basis in statutory or case law, or without the necessary evidence to support it. (Karawasky v. Zachay (1983) 146 Cal.App.3d 679, 194 CR 292.)

"Counsel face the danger of being trapped between their obligation to their clients to diligently pursue any possibly meritorious claim, and their obligation to the judicial system to refrain from prosecuting frivolous claims. '[A]n attorney is often confronted with clashing obligations imposed by our system of justice. An attorney has an obligation not only to protect his client's interests but also to respect the legitimate interests of fellow members of the bar, the judiciary and the administration of justice.' [Citation.]"

(In re Marriage of Flaherty (1982) 31 Cal.3d 637, 647, 183 CR 508.) Frivolous includes only issues "prosecuted for an improper motive - to harass the respondent or delay the effect of an adverse judgment - or when it indisputably has no merit." (Id., 31 Cal.3d at 650.) Even after defining frivolous the court cautioned, ". . . any definition must be read so as to avoid a

serious chilling effect on the assertion of litigants' rights ..." and therefore "the power to punish attorneys ... should be used most sparingly to deter only the most egregious conduct." (Id. 31 Cal.3d at 650-51.) In the case at bar, Armstrong submits that any person with a 6 conscience and sense of fair play would be shocked at what Scientology is doing and that its use of this Court in the instant 8 litigation is an abusive use of process. 9 VI. CONCLUSION 10

Based upon the foregoing, Armstrong respectfully submits that the demurrer should be overruled and, if it is sustained, requests leave to amend to allege Scientology's false claim to have servedthe November 29, 1993 lis pendens on the persons set forth in its proof of service attached thereto.

DATED: June 3, 1994

By:

Attorney for Cross-Complainant

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I am employed in the County of Marin, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen years and am not a party to the above entitled action. My business address is 711 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, San Anselmo, California. I served the following documents: ARMSTRONG'S OPPOSITION TO DEMURRER TO SECOND

AMENDED CROSS-COMPLAINT

on the following person(s) on the date set forth below, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid to be placed in the United States Mail at San Anselmo, California:

Andrew Wilson, Esquire WILSON, RYAN & CAMPILONGO 235 Montgomery Street, Suite 450 San Francisco, California 94104

LAURIE J. BARTILSON, ESQ. Bowles & Moxon 6255 Sunset Boulevard Suite 2000 Los Angeles, California 90028 (By Telecopier)

MICHAEL WALTON P.O. Box 751 San Anselmo, California 94960

(By Mail) I caused such envelope with postage thereon [X] fully prepaid to be placed in the United States Mail at San Anselmo, California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the [X] (State) laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

June 3, 1994 DATED: